

# Wage Index Reform

## Special Open Door Forum

### Agenda

Tuesday, May 20, 2008, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

2:00 pm to 2:10 pm	Background and Purpose: Amy Bassano, Director, CMS Hospital and Ambulatory Policy Group Marc Hartstein, Deputy Director, CMS Hospital and Ambulatory Policy Group
2:10 pm to 2:20 pm	Summary of Acumen's Analysis Plan: Thomas DeLeire, Acumen, LLC & Thomas MaCurdy, Acumen, LLC
2:20 pm to 3:50 pm	Comment Sessions: <i>Telephone lines open for public comments on the 9 matters related to the wage index that Section 106(b)(2) of the MIEA-TRHCA requires CMS to consider, the MedPAC's recommendations, and CMS's proposals in the FY 2009 IPPS proposed rule. The topics have been divided into three groups (I, II, and III). Participants are requested to follow this schedule.</i>
2:20 pm to 2:50 pm	Topic Group I: Use of BLS data (or other data or methodologies) to calculate relative wages Issues relating to occupational mix, such as staffing practices Minimizing volatility of wage index adjustments while maintaining budget neutrality
2:50 pm to 3:20 pm	Topic Group II: Problems with the definition of labor markets for purposes of wage index adjustment Minimizing variations in wage index adjustments between and within MSAs and statewide rural areas Modification/elimination of geographic reclassifications and adjustments
3:20 pm to 3:50 pm	Topic Group III: Effect that implementation of proposal would have on health care providers and on each region of the country Methods for implementing proposal, including methods to phase-in such implementation Evidence of the effect on quality and patient safety, and any recommendations for alternative calculations Feasibility of applying all components of proposal to other settings (e.g., home health agencies, skilled nursing facilities)
3:50 pm to 4:00 pm	Wrap-up/Next Steps: Amy Bassano, Director, CMS Hospital and Ambulatory Policy Group Marc Hartstein, Deputy Director, CMS Hospital and Ambulatory Policy Group